



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL
INSPECTIONS**

**500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

Wednesday, March 16, 2016

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (16-1528)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chairperson Barbara Bigby, Vice Chairperson Cheryl Grills Ph.D., Commissioner Donald S. Andrews, Commissioner Johanna Arias-Bhatia, Commissioner Susan Burton, Commissioner Percy Duran III, Commissioner Eleanor R. Montañó and Commissioner Theresa Zhen

Excused: Commissioner Anne S. Hill

Staff present: Roy Sinclair and Derexie Young. (16-1529)

Call to Order. (16-1450)

Chairperson Bigby called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Chairperson Bigby led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

Self-introductions were made by all in attendance.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

1. Approval of the March 9, 2016 Minutes. (16-1451)

On motion of Commissioner Donald S. Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Percy Duran, III, this item was approved with the following additions:

Commissioner Zhen would like to include in the Men's Central Jail inspection entry (page 2, Item 4) "Commissioners listened to a range of

concerns of at least 30 inmates including lack of getting timely medical care, not having blankets and miscalculation of time."

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

2. Department of Auditor-Controller (AC). (16-1453)

Ms. Michele Day, AC, Group Home Ombudsman, distributed copies and reported on the Children's Group Home Ombudsman Activity Report during the month of February 2016 and reported that there were a total of 15 Hotline Requests for Assistance Calls.

In continuing her report, Ms. Day reported that there were 6 Outreach visits to the following facilities:

- **Heritage Group Homes, Inc. (3 sites)**
- **Sand Hill**
- **Bourne, Inc. - Santa Anita Site**
- **Five Acres - Main Facility**

3. Internal Services Department (ISD). (16-1454)

Mr. Brian Lear stated that he did not have anything to report, however, he is available to answer any questions that the Commission may have regarding any of the facilities his office is responsible for monitoring.

4. Department of Mental Health (DMH). (16-1455)

Mr. Bart Callender, DMH, reported that DMH continues to work on group home reform and that the process is scheduled to be completed by January 17, 2017.

A brief discussion was held regarding the reformation process. Ms. Rhonda David-Shirley added that all group homes will be converted to short term residential treatment centers. The goal is to not keep the youth in group homes more than six months. However, the time can be extended for an additional six months. They would like to increase the number of group homes in the community, allowing the youth to be treated in their own communities. All group homes must be accredited and in operation and providing services for at least six months in order to submit an application for certification.

Mr. Bart Callender will coordinate with Commission Services staff to invite presenters to address the Commission regarding clinical services and Service Area Six at the April 20, 2016 Business Meeting.

5. Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). (16-1456)

Patricia Bolanos Gonzalez, Children Services Administrator II, Out of Home Care Management Section, DCFS, reported that during the month of February 2016 there were a total of 677 Absent Without Leave (AWOLS) and the child abuse hotline received a total of 28 referrals in the following categories:

- 14 Physical Abuse (PA)**
- 1 Other (O)**
- 6 Sexual Abuse (SA)**
- 7 General Neglect (GN)**

There were a total of 18 referrals closed in February 2016:

- 5 GN**
- 7 SA**
- 4 PA**
- 2 Severe Neglect**

Ms. Bolanos Gonzalez also reported that there were no Group Homes placed on HOLD in February 2016. She further reported that DCFS and the Torrance Police Department is currently working with Orange County Children's Foundation Group Home located in the City of Torrance on developing best practices that will help in reducing the number of AWOLs at the group home.

Ms. Diana Flaggs, DCFS, Contract Administration Division, reported that Sand Hill Group Home was placed on Do Not Use status; all youth have been removed from the group home and were placed with other group homes until they become compliant with the terms of their contract. Also, DCFS is working with B & I Group Home to get them in compliance with at least 28 outstanding issues that need to be resolved. Ms. Flaggs concluded by stating that Macro Group home was also placed on Do Not Use status.

6. Probation Department (PD). (16-1457)

Ms. Pamela Pease, Supervising Deputy Probation Officer, Group Home Monitoring and Investigations Unit, Placement Services Bureau, PD, provided the status of group home AWOLs for February 2016 as follows:

There were 122 AWOLs involving 107 youth:

- 25 Remain AWOL
- 80 Returned to group homes
- 17 Placed in Juvenile Hall

There were 3 referrals in February 2016:

- 2 General Neglect
- 1 Sexual Abuse

Ms. Pease also provided the Commission with an update regarding Community Sports and Art Group home; Probation has removed all youth under its jurisdiction and have placed the home on Do Not Use status. She also reported that positive Path Group home is no longer providing services.

7. Sheriff's Department (SD). (16-1458)

Commander Henry Romero, Los Angeles County Sheriff Department (SD), introduced Ms. Claudia Quinonez, Senior Investigator, Electronic Monitoring Program (EM), Pretrial Services Division, Probation Department and Mr. Edwin, Director, Pretrial Services Division, Probation Department, he stated that Ms. Quinonez and Mr. Monteagudo will address the Commission's question regarding the Electronic Monitoring Services.

Ms. Quinonez and Mr. Monteagudo provided an overview of the EM Program. They reported that the EM Program was implemented in October of 1992, and it is public/ private partnership. The Probation Department provides oversight of a private electronic monitoring contractor to ensure accountability for services provided. Currently, there are 152 inmates participating in the EM program and the cost for monitoring is based on an income sliding scale of those inmates in the program (range from \$3 up to \$25 per day). The average stay on monitoring for an inmate that is being release is 48 days. The Probation Department receives referrals from the Sheriff's Department (78%) and from Los Angeles County Courts (28%).

Inmates are given an Electronic Monitoring Program Assessment which includes interviewing the defendant, reviewing the inmate's criminal history as well as certain risk factors (risk assessment). Eligible inmates receive one of several EM devices; Ankle, home and GPS.

Chairperson Bigby thanked Ms. Quinonez and Mr. Monteagudo for their informative report.

Commander Romero reported that the SD met with the Registrar-Recorder/ County Clerk regarding voting for eligible inmates that are housed in County jails and facilities. Inmates will be able to register and vote in the Primary and General Elections. Voter Registration forms were issued to those eligible inmates. Commander Romero will invite Mark Slater to come to the April 20, 2016 Business Meeting and address the Commission's questions regarding voter registration and voting by inmates in the County jail system.

The Commission addressed further concerns to Commander Romero and Sergeant Carter regarding their findings during their inspection of Men's Central Jail (Inmates not having sheets and blankets). Commander Romero assured the Commissioners that he will follow up on their concerns.

The SBC Commissioners thanked Commander Henry Romero and Sergeant April Carter for always being available to address their concerns and for their responsiveness.

- 8. Office of the Inspector General (OIG). (16-1459)**

Ms. Barbara Phillips, Monitor, Office of Inspector General (OIG), reported that she will take the SBC's findings during their visits back to the OIG's office for further follow-up and possible action.

- 9. Chairperson's Report on various items. (16-1460)**

There was no report presented.

- 10. Staff Report on Correspondence Received and Department Representative Reports. (16-1461)**

There was no report presented.

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- 11. Commissioners' Reports on Group Home and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from March 10, 2016 to March 15, 2016. (16-1462)**

During the reporting period, the following group homes/facilities were reported as being in satisfactory condition:

Chairperson Bigby visited:

- **Penny Lane "Satellite #1" (Burnett Avenue, North Hills, CA) on March 15, 2016 and noted that the home had new hardwood and carpeted flooring, bedroom furniture, complete interior and exterior of the property was recently painted and there are six new vans onsite.**
- **Hathaway-Sycamores Children and Family Services "Sycamores" (North El Nido Drive, Altadena, CA) on March 11, 2016 and noted that Bedrooms No. 2, 3 and 7 need new mattresses; Bedrooms No. 3 and 7 need new curtains.**

Chairperson Bigby and Commissioner Bhatia visited:

- **Men's Central Jail "Modules 5000, 7000, 7100, 7200 and 8000" (Bauchet Street, Los Angeles, CA) on March 10, 2016 and noted that during the Town Hall meeting an inmate stated that he has not been on the roof in two weeks, had not taken a shower in seven days because the showers were broken. Another inmate stated that he has been without a mattress for five days. One inmate had a fractured collar bone but had not been seen by the nurse, while another inmate complained that he has not received his orthopedic shoes for 30 days. Also, inmates are given antibiotics/ medication after their illness had passed. Most inmates complained that they have not received any mail for the last 30 days; that the showers are over crowded, they had no bed sheets and it can take up to 14 days before money is credited on their books.**

Chairperson Bigby and Commissioners Bhatia, Duran and Zhen visited:

- **Men's Central Jail modules 5500 and 9000 (Bauchet Street, Los Angeles, CA) on March 4, 2016 and noted that some inmates complained that they do not have access to the Law Library; not getting proper credit for participating in the Education Based Incarceration Program (lower sentencing time); they do not get their blankets exchanged; their complaints are not responded to; lack of medical attention; no haircuts and exercise time on the yard is limited if any at all.**

Commissioners Andrews and Montaña visited:

- **Camp Scutter (Boquet Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA) on March 14, 2016 and noted that this is an excellent facility; under-utilization of facility and staff.**

- **Bellflower Courthouse (East Flower Street, Bellflower, CA) on March 10, 2016 and noted that the facility urgently needs a new gun locker for the Sheriff Deputies as the current conditions put the Deputies in danger. Staff was requested by the Commission to forward a copy of the inspection report to Commander Henry Romero and Sergeant April Carter of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for handling.**

Commissioner Montaña shared the following Daily Breeze newspaper article with the Commission:

- **In Fight for New Culture, Sheriff Needs Backing - March 11, 2016**

Commissioner Montaña visited:

- **Dream Home Care, Inc. #3 (Gaviota Avenue, Long Beach, CA) on March 15, 2016 and commented that it was a very good facility.**

III. DISCUSSIONS

- 12. Discussion on the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) Certification of Commissioners. (16-1467)**

Commissioner Bhatia stated that she talked with County Counsel regarding alternatives to requesting inmate information.

Counsel added that under Federal and State laws the inmates' information is protected and should remain confidential.

Following a brief discussion, SBC Commissioners were advised to consult with their appointing District to find out their position is on the SBC accessing inmates' medical and personal information.

Chairperson Bigby stated that due to safety concerns as well as confidentiality, any and all information should be brought to her attention prior to it being released.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

13. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (16-1464)

There were no matters presented for a future agenda.

Public Comment

14. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (16-1465)

There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.

Adjournment

15. Adjournment for the meeting of March 16, 2016. (16-1466)

There being no further business, Chairperson Bigby adjourned the meeting of March 16, 2016 at 12:58 p.m.